



# News Release

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## **Molestation charges lead to suspension of Snohomish County optometrist**

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington State Department of Health has immediately suspended the license of Snohomish County optometrist John O'Brien (OD.60385727) on allegations that he molested a minor patient during an eye exam.

The charges say that in August 2014, O'Brien inappropriately touched a 10-year-old female patient and pulled the girl's pants down. Charges also say law enforcement found pictures of the girl on his cell phone that he took during the incident.

O'Brien has been criminally charged in Snohomish County Superior Court with first degree child molestation and second degree possession of depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He can't practice in Washington until the charges against his license are resolved; he has 20 days to respond to the allegations and request a hearing.

The documents in this case can be seen online by clicking "[Look up a health care provider](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That's also the number to call to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Department of Health and Board of Optometry protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to people in Washington.

The [Department of Health website](#) ([www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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